Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A simulator for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test over a network, the simulator comprising:

a split bridge device having a network interface card for ~~to~~ communicating to <u>the</u>a network via said network interface card; <u>and</u>

a frame generator coupled to said split bridge device for generating one or more simulated network frames according to a specific network communications protocol<u>;</u>~~,~~

said split bridge device transferring one or more simulated network frames from the frame generator to said system under test via the network to simulate traffic of multiple virtual clients<u>,</u> ~~-~~and receiving ~~said one~~ or more network frames <u>from the system under test via the network in reply to the one or more simulated network frames transferred thereto</u> based on a unique identifier combined with bridge routing information associated with said one or more simulated network frames<u>,</u> whereby multiple virtual clients are simulated.

2. (Currently amended) The simulator <u>of</u>~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the frame generator is coupled to the split bridge device via a channel connection.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~network~~ simulator ~~as claimed in~~<u>of</u> claim 1, wherein the frame generator is coupled to the split bridge <u>device</u> via an ~~OSA connection (~~Open System Adapter~~)~~ connection.

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4. (Currently amended) A simulator enabling insertion of simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test implementing one or more servers to achieve load balancing across a network, ~~said simulator~~ comprising:

a plurality of split bridges, each having a network interface card, each of said plurality of split bridges connected to a respective one of said one or more servers employed for load balancing and enabled to communicate via ~~a~~ its respective network interface card to said network;

wherein one of the plurality of split bridges is designated as a primary split bridge for passing a received broadcast message, without delay, ~~responsive~~ to the respective one of said one or more servers, via its respective network interface card, ~~a broadcast message received via the network interface card immediately responding thereto,~~ and another of the plurality of split bridges is designated as ~~a~~ secondary split bridge for passing the received broadcast message, with a predetermined delay, to the respective one of said one or more servers, via its respective network interface card ~~responsive to the broadcast message; received via the network interface card for delaying a response for a predetermined amount of time,~~

wherein subsequent messages are sent only to the primary split bridge ~~of said plurality of split bridges that responded to said broadcast message~~.

5. (Currently amended) A method for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test, ~~said method~~ comprising:

connecting a split bridge with a network interface card having a unique identifier to a network;

receiving simulated network frames from a frame generator coupled to the split bridge;

configuring routing information in the split bridge to include identifiers associated to with said simulated network frames, said identifiers emulating identifiers of a plurality of client workstations; and

forwarding received the simulated network frames onto the network via the network interface card.

6. (Currently amended) The method of for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium as claimed in claim 5, said method further comprisingincluding:

receiving network frames representing replies from a server designated for said plurality of client workstations based on the configured routing information, wherein the received network frames have having unique frame identifiers representing said plurality of client workstations.

7. (Currently amended) A method for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test implementing one or more servers to achieve load balancing, said method comprising:

connecting a split bridge for each server in a load balancing system having a plurality of servers;

a primary of said split bridges transmitting a client request immediately to a first server connected to said primary split bridge;

a secondary of said split bridges transmitting thea client request after a predetermined amount of time to a second server connected to the secondary split bridge; and

transmitting subsequent client requests to the primary of said split bridges replying to the client request.

8. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method steps of inserting network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test, the method steps comprising:

connecting a split bridge with a network interface card having a unique identifier to a network;

receiving simulated network frames from a frame generator coupled to said split bridge;

configuring routing information in said split bridge to include identifiers associated with the simulated network frames, said identifiers emulating identifiers of a plurality of client workstations; and

forwarding the received simulated network frames onto the network via the network interface card.

9~~10~~. (Currently amended) The program storage device as claimed in claim 8~~9~~, the method steps ~~further~~ including:

receiving network frames ~~representing~~ replies from a server designated for said plurality of client workstations based on the configured routing ~~information,~~ wherein the received network frames have ~~having~~ unique frame identifiers representing said plurality of client workstations.